

Following an oral history with Haydon (Bud) Cooper, he and his daughter Kathleen Cooper shared the history of Myton as we visited the Myton History Museum and a couple other historical places in Myton.



Bud and Kathleen live in what was once the Fisher Hotel. It was also used as sleeping rooms upstairs and living quarters for the family downstairs.



The old jail is part of the Myton Museum. It was built in 1910. Inside the jail cell, all four walls were indented with names,



initials and dates from those who had been thrown in jail. Some had etched a line for each day they had spent there. One person had written, “I’m a jail bird, but I can’t fly.” Mr. Cooper pointed out his cousins name on the wall. He said, “This is my cousin, Tranny Calvert. Him and another local boy were the town rowdy’s. They were the first streakers.”

Andrew Tolboe owned a General Store and Cobbler shop in Myton sometime in the 1930’s. Today Mr. Cooper has set up a reproduction of an old cobbler shop inside one of the cells in the old jail- complete with tools and benches.



In another cell there is an old blacksmith’s forge which was donated by John Uresk, a Myton area man. John’s father used the forge on his farm to repair machinery and forge tools needed in his work.

The Myton Museum was once the old Calvert Store. It was owned and operated by Haydon Coopers grandparents, Haydon and Sally Calvert. It later became the Calvert and Waugh Store. More recently it has been known as the Three Legged Dog Saloon.







Kathleen Cooper in front of Museum



As you enter the Museum in the entry way on the ceiling are tin tiles. These tiles used to cover the entire ceiling in the Calvert Store. A woman said that she remembers going into the store when she was a small girl and would just stand and stare up at the beautiful ceiling. Bud and Kathleen are having a portion of these tin tiles restored.





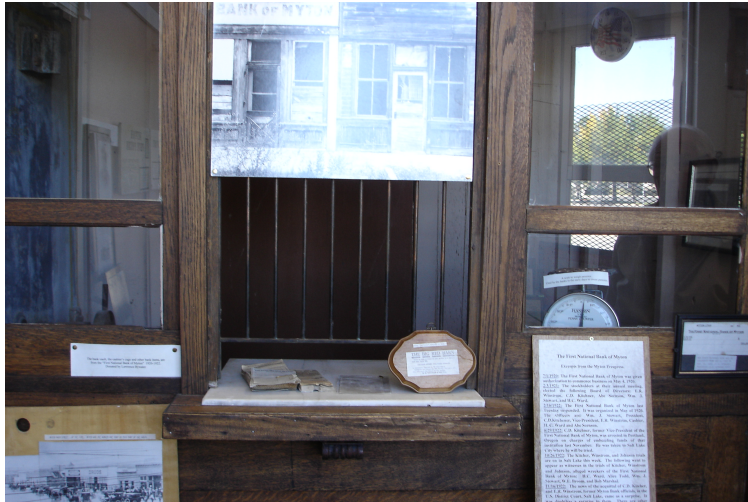
The museum is mostly a picture museum with photos of early Myton and its people. Here are two pictures of Myton, one in about 1910 and another in 1911.

Myton was the largest town in the county at this time. It was a bustling town with stores, hotels, banks, a livery stable and even an opera house.



On this wall are photos of people in the Myton area. The Odekirks are pictured here. They ran an ice cream parlor in Myton. The building at the top center is the Myton Free Press. It ran for about twenty years until about 1926.





The Myton State Bank was finished and ready to operate just as The Depression hit. It never did get off the ground after that; it went defunct. This is the teller cage and the vault from the bank. The building itself was used for other purposes and was recently tore down.

Major H. P. Myton came from Garden City, Kansas to Fort Duchesne to work with the soldiers. His position was abolished soon after his arrival so he inquired of Haydon Calvert if there was a position in his store. Mr. Calvert made him post master. At this time the town was called “The Bridge”. The United States Postal Service said they could no longer send mail to “The Bridge” in Utah. They would have to have an official name. Mr. Calvert told H. P. Myton to put his name (Myton), and send back the form to the postal service in Washington D.C. Myton scratched his name out and put another, but the postal department placed the name Myton back in. This is how the town of Myton got its name.

The story of how Bud Cooper obtained the traveling case of H. P. Myton was quite a coincidence. A man had bought this traveling case over near Price in a yard sale. He was going out to his farm one morning and saw this sitting on a hood of a car in a yard sale. He gave thirty five dollars for it. He didn’t know anything about a town called Myton, but he thought it was quite a suit case. It was an antique. A





few years later someone told him there was a town of Myton. He thought he would go there to see what connection there was with the case. He stopped at Fort Myton and then was directed to Bud Coopers home. Bud had researched the family of H. P. Myton and knew the living relatives and where they lived. He gave the man the information. The man contacted the relatives but none of them were interested in the case. He called Bud Cooper back and asked if he would be interested in keeping the case. Bud was able to obtain the case and add it to his collection for the Museum.

Myton on "Pay Day." This picture shows the time when horse and buggy began to be replaced by cars.



The Calvert Hotel was built around 1903 and was prominent stage stopping place going from Price Ft. Duchesne to Vernal. Then the town moved up the bench and they built their store and hotel up Main Street in 1910. Haydon's family lived in the hotel in the winter and then moved back up on their ranch in the summer. Haydon's mother's



the  
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on



brother lived in a room in the back of the hotel year round-Jack Calvert Sr. In 1936 it burned mysteriously while everyone was out of Town on the ranch.



First building at "The Bridge" before it was named Myton. Owned by Haydon Calvert.

This shows the "Bridge" townsite area. In the middle you see walking, Sallie Calvert Cooper and Hannah Calvert Clark, carrying water from the Duchesne River to the Calvert Hotel.



U. S Highway 40 can be seen here in 1915 going through the town of Myton. The tall building is the Upalco Flour

Mill. The power came from Upalco to power the mill. The power plant washed out at Upalco and they never rebuilt it.



Looking South From North Myton Bench APR 1915



The left photo is the Armistice Day float from 1906. In 1976 Bud and Ludy Cooper built a reproduction of that float for the Bicentennial Parade. This was the beginning of the annual Myton Days celebration.



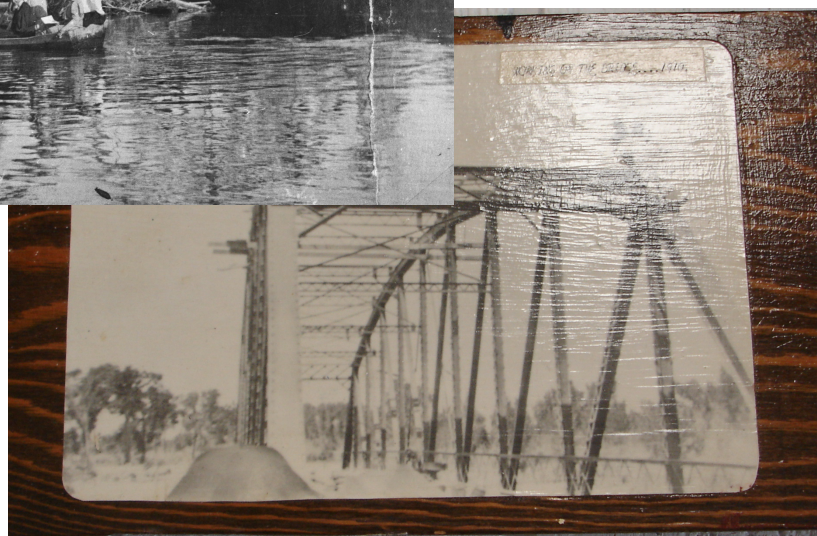
The Myton Steel Bridge

in



This little boat was used to cross the river while they built the new steel bridge. The old wooden bridge was left high and dry.

Some of Mr. Cooper's relatives are shown crossing the boat.







twisted and snapped.

In the 1930's glass point pens were used. These glass points called nibs came from the Czech Republic and the antique fountain pens were found in France. They were both purchased online though e-bay.

In the 1950's the Uinta Basin was having a very cold winter. The temperatures had been plummeting to forty below zero. On one of these very cold mornings a seismograph truck ran into the Myton Bridge. Because of the extreme cold the bridge shattered and fell apart. Mr. Cooper remembers hearing a loud explosion sound and later found out the source of the loud noise was from the impact of the truck hitting the bridge. The steel beams



In the 1930's glass point fountain pens were used. These glass points called nimpes came from Czech Republic and the pens were found in Paris France. This display shows the progression of the pen starting with the quill pen.

Bud remembers his mother having a glass point pen. She thought it was the greatest thing in the world,





and it wrote well, except when you quit writing you had to tip it up really quick or it would drop a glob of ink on your paper.

The last Indian uprising, possibly in the state of Utah occurred here. The man in the photo is Fenno. Bud said, "He was a bad Indian. When they opened the Basin to homesteading, you had to travel to Vernal to sign up. All the people from Myton went to Vernal to sign up. This guy came in grandpa's store and

wanted some vanilla extract, which is alcohol. Billy Muse was tending grandpa's store when grandpa was over in Vernal; he wouldn't sell him any. Fenno said, "I'll go home and get my gun and kill you." He went and got his gun, but Billy Muse shot and killed him. The word got out all over the area that there had been an Indian shot in Myton. The Indians came in and was running up and down the streets hooping and



hollering. The soldiers from Fort Duchesne got word about it. They were able to quiet things down. They put Billy Muse on a horse and told him the best thing for him to do is leave the country. He was later acquitted."

Baseball was a big event in the Basin. Each town had their own team. The teams would rotate where and who they played. Every Sunday a game would be held somewhere in the Basin.

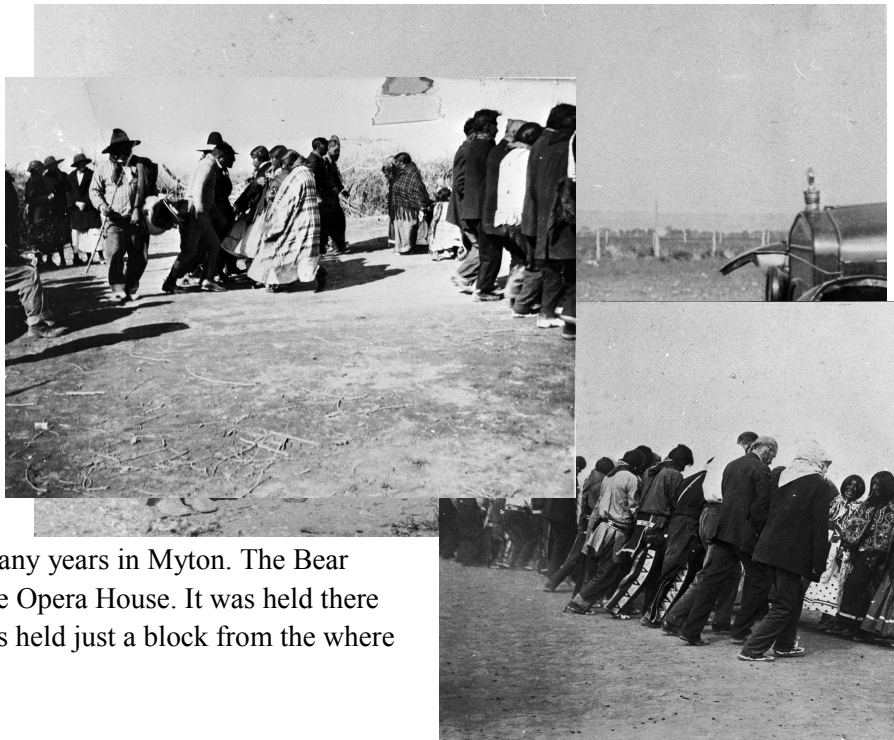
Bud made the car that is next to the stadium after he returned home from serving in the service. He made it out of junk pieces he found in the area. It was a little Model A Ford Roadster.







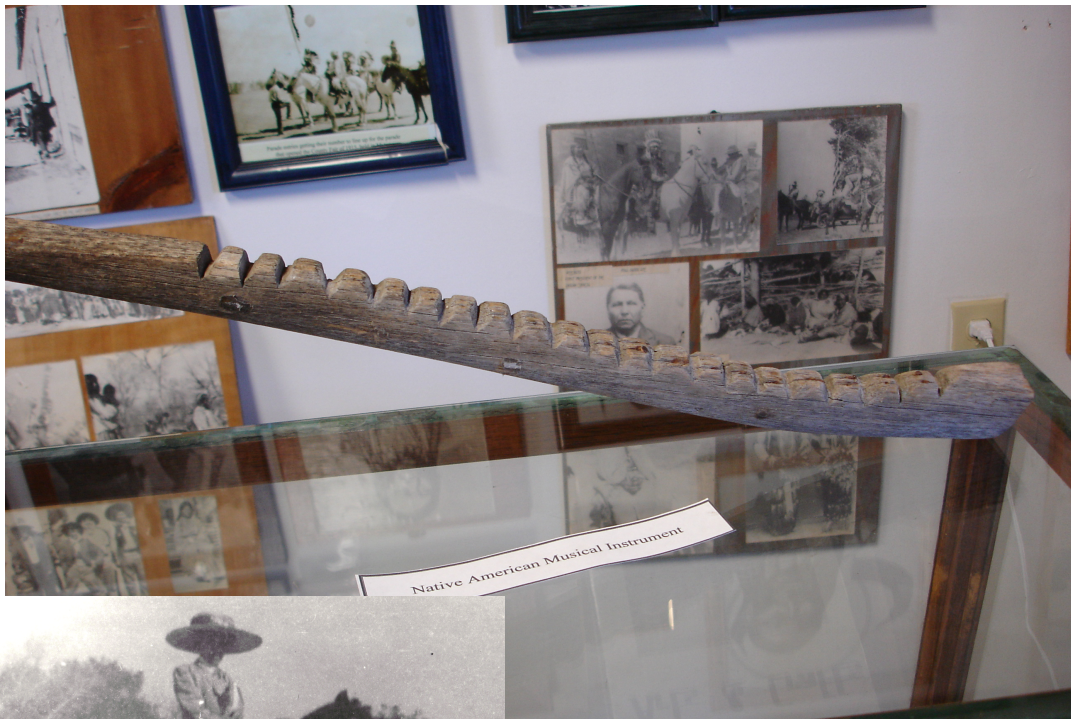
Bud loves this photo of an Indian couple getting a glimpse of an early car. The expression on their faces is pure wonderment.



The Ute Bear Dance was held for many years in Myton. The Bear Dance Corral was located next to the Opera House. It was held there until World War II. After that, it was held just a block from the where the Museum is located now.



The Ute Indians used these music making sticks during the Bear Dance. They rubbed this instrument with a bone which set a vibration onto a piece of tin that was stretched across the instrument.



Sallie



Calvert Cooper

Early Myton Residents





Right: Alice Todd and a friend. Alice was postmistress in Myton for many years.

Below: An early automobile is parked in front of the Colorado Bar on Main Street in Myton.



Phone lines in the early days went from Myton to Ft. Duchesne to Vernal, bypassing Roosevelt. When World War I was over people from Myton mounted their horses, piled on their buggies and cars to hurry to Roosevelt to inform them the war was over. Below, residents of Myton stand in front of the newspaper office announcing the end of World War I.





In early days freight wagons would travel a long distance through Nine Mile Canyon and on into Myton. There was no water in this dry desert area. They had to carry water in barrels to water their horses and for their own needs. Half way in between Nine Mile and Myton they decided to dig a well. They dug a well using pick and shovels two-hundred ten feet deep. They never thought it would be impossible or that they wouldn't reach water. They just continued until they did. The water was not suitable for drinking but they could bathe in it and the horses could drink it. This place became a stage stop called "The Wells". It is twenty miles south of Myton.

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In the Museum Bud has a Veterans Wall that has all the names of those who

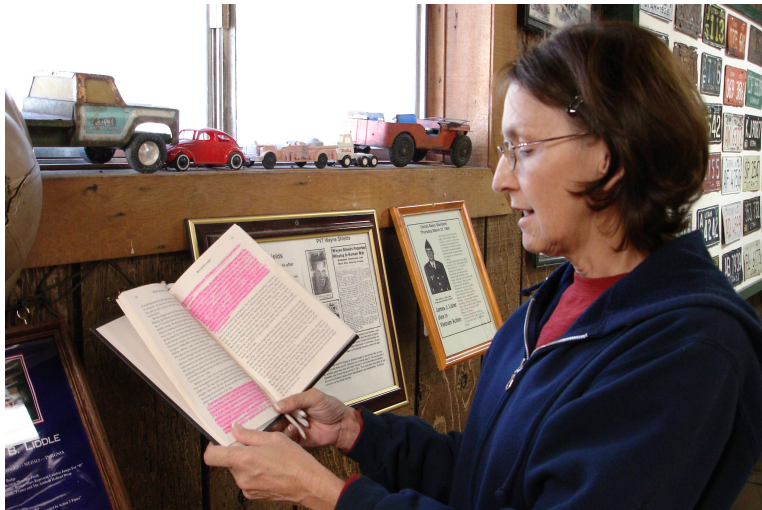
have served from Myton. Individual displays spotlight men from Myton and Duchesne County that served our country.

Donald Lidell was a veteran from Myton. Displayed are the ribbons he earned. He wore this old pith helmet while he was farming. He was a regular at Fort Myton. He would come in every evening and get a toasted cheese sandwich and a cup of soup. He and Bud would talk about things. Bud said, "He always





thought we should have pooled our money and bought all the surplus airplanes. He used to fly. He liked talking about that, but he never talked about his war service. I knew he was 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, but I didn't know he was one of the very first ones in it." Several years after his death a man from Vernal inquired about Donald. Bud discovered then what a hero his friend had been. He had earned all these ribbons and had fought in every Campaign in Europe. They did so much good there, but they were all completely worn out and their feet were getting foot rot from sloshing around in mud and water so long. But the General in charge knew they were the best soldiers we had so he kept them there much longer than he should have. They finally had to go over the General's head to get those boys home.



In the book The Seven Roads to Hell, about the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, it tells of Donald's Heroism.

Kathleen read the following paragraph from the book:

*Then there was Don Lidell, pronounced LaDale, a Mormon from Myton, Utah. Lidell was one of the very first paratroopers in the US Army, known as the "The Originals". They formed the nucleus of the 101<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne when they were activated at Camp Clayborne, Louisiana, back in 1942. He was a*

*rock, a man seemingly without a nerve in his body. In Normandy, I saw Lidell caring for wounded in the open with artillery and mortar shells bursting around, while others crouched in their holes. We called to him to take cover, but he wouldn't even look up. He just kept to his grim work and shouted, "I'll take care of myself. You just take also about my height but was quiet and more of a square jaw, a straight seemed to see right curly hair that was scar showed around his open collar. I never asked he never told me. When he seemed to be a yard of special with Don and he times confiding in me thoughts. Lidell never become a buddy or to get*



*care of yourself." Lidell was more powerfully built. He loner than us. He had a large sharp nose, ice blue eyes that through a man, and short thinning on top. A large burn lower neck when he wore an him about what caused it, and smiled he showed what straight white teeth. I felt a accepted me as a friend at some of his innermost allowed anyone else to too close.*





The State licensing bureau in Roosevelt donated a small poster with all of the Utah license plates on it from when they started issuing plates. The collection on the wall belongs to Haydon. The license plate Bud is holding is a replica of the plate in 1943. That year the license plates were made from soy beans. The cows and horses ate them. It was something to look out and see your license plate being ate by a cow, a horse, or other animal. At this time in history all metal was going toward the war effort. In the late 1960's they came up with a sticker to add to the license plate each year instead of issuing a new plate each year.







Bud has collected old license plates and hubcaps.



Bud Cooper's first automobile was a 1927 Model T Ford. Left to right are George Wedig, Bud Cooper and Lawrence Bywater.

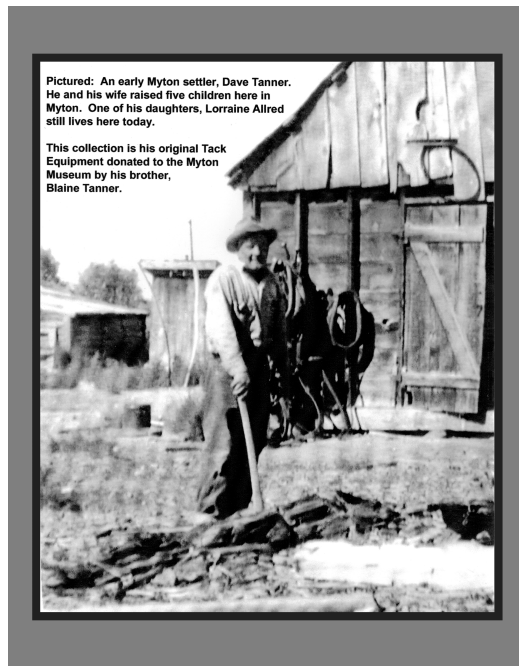


Being a mechanic Bud had the opportunity to use a variety of old tools.





Bud found an interesting branding iron in the river bottom right below the old government barn. It said SU instead of US. It had been built backwards.



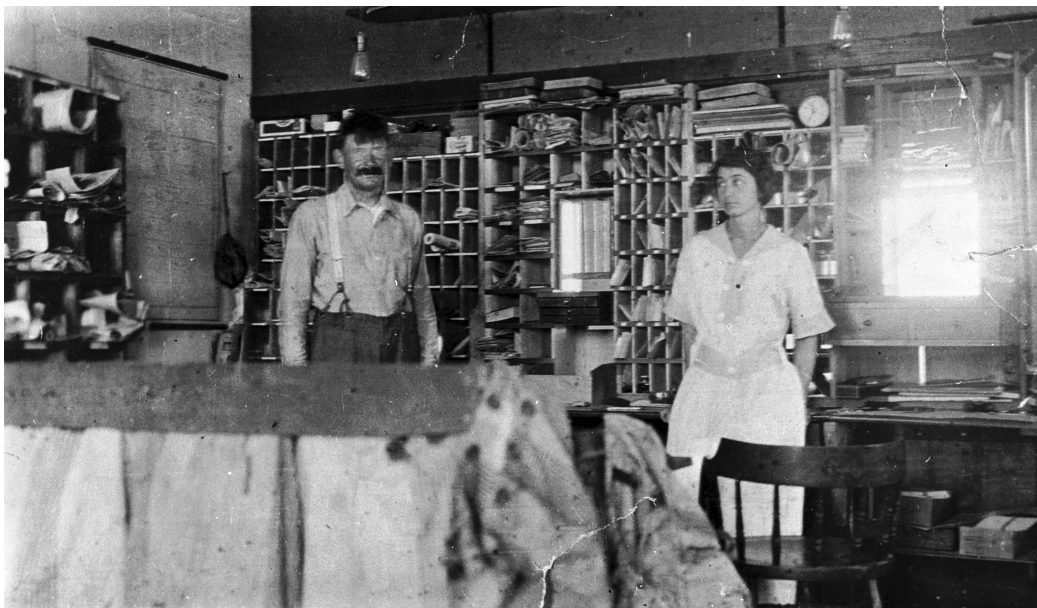
This tack  
the

The  
Calvert  
post

Museum Mr. Cooper has letters and cards dated as far back as 1909.

belonged to Dave Tanner and was donated to  
museum by his brother Blaine Tanner.

second Myton Post Office was located in the  
Store. The people in the photo worked for the  
office. In the replica of the post office in the





The center object is a centerfuge. Farmers would bring their cream to the creamery to sell. The cream would be stirred up and placed in the small cylinders in the bottom. An acid was dropped in with the cream, then, the centerfuge would spin the cylinders. There were little scales in each cylinder that would tell how much butter fat there was in a pound of milk. That level determined how much the farmer was paid for his cream.



Little White  
Framed School House



Bud went to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at the brick school above.  
The door handle below right is from the White Sided





School House. Below left is Mrs. Tuttle with one of her classes. She taught for many years in Myton. Bud Cooper was among her students.



The



Myton Water Tower





The photos and objects on display show how electricity has evolved in our country. The pictures came from the National Archive of REA, (Rural Electric Association). The government furnished the material and local people furnished the man power for electricity to be placed in rural areas.



Myton people visit the Uintah Power Plant on the day of the opening. This was quite a celebration to finally have power available.



The flume goes from the Uinta Mountains down to the Uinta Power Plant.



In the early 1900's the water lines were wooden. They were like an oak barrel. They were made out of hollowed oak and wrapped with heavy wire so when they expanded, they would tighten up and hold water.



On Labor Day when Bud was ten or twelve, an airplane



landed on the rodeo grounds. That evening the plane took to the sky to give the town a fireworks display. As fireworks were being lit from the airplane it caught on fire. The pilot tried to bring the wings down into the Duchesne River to extinguish the fire. That did not work, so the pilot landed the airplane on what is called “airplane hill”. The airplane landed and burned up. This is a piece from the prop of that airplane.



This beautiful stove was given to Bud by good friend, who also donated the bank teller cages from the Myton State Bank. It could have been used in the bank or in the pool hall which occupied the building after the bank went under.

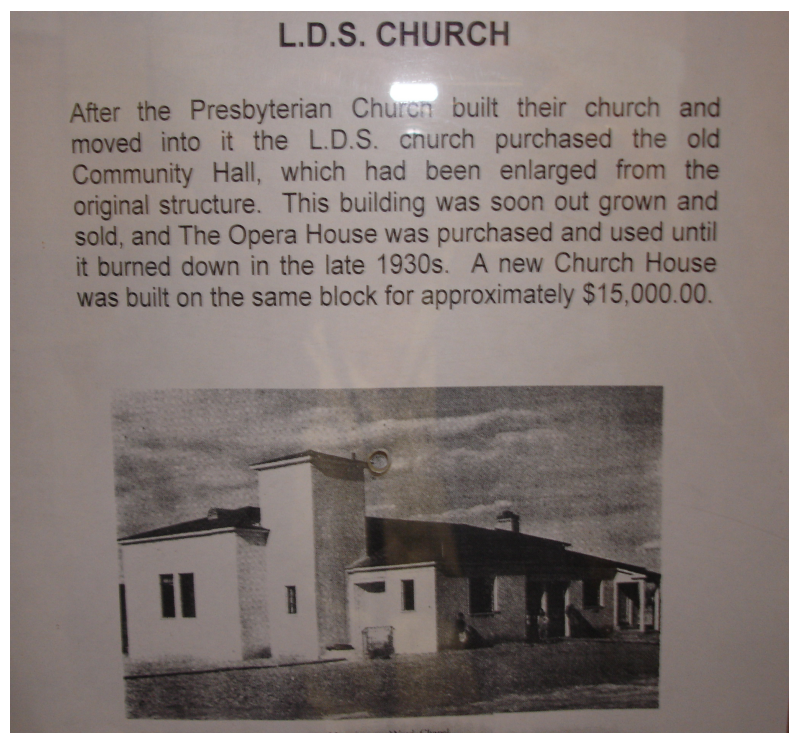
Lamps such as this three legged floor lamp weren't very common. They were a fire danger because they could be easily tipped over.





Before the Presbyterian's built their own building, pictured left, the Presbyterian Church and the LDS Church shared a small one room building. A curtain divided the room in half and both religions shared the building, each holding their own services at different times.

Ike Odekirk was the first LDS Sunday School teacher to teach in this shared building. Ike also ran the saloon out at "The Wells" before coming to Myton. In those days a person did what they had to do to survive and make a living.



The Duchesne Record was the first newspaper in Myton.



Alfalfa Seed Will Make the Reservation Among the Most Prosperous Intermountain Sections

Let your outside friends know about the great Uinta Basin by sending them the Record each week.

# The Duchesne Record.

A homestead acquired now in Northeastern Utah means independence for you and your family in the years to come.

Vol. 3, No. 7.

Published Every Friday at Myton, Wasatch County, Utah.

May 19, 1911

## Will Aid This Basin

Extension Department of The Agricultural College Will Make Experiments.

It will probably be remembered that at the last legislature a bill providing for the expenditure of \$6,000 by the agricultural college for experimental work in the Uinta basin, this bill, together with several similar others carrying out appropriations, passed house and was sent to the senate. At this juncture the senate committee to which the bills had been referred, stated that the U. S. department of agriculture had an offer that if the legislature would make an appropriation of \$50,000 the department would make a like appropriation for the pursuit of agricultural experiments in Utah, and that the several bills appropriating for in-

## Killed at Price.

Nine-year-old Cooper Child Has Life Crushed Out.

A distressing accident occurred at Price yesterday afternoon whereby the 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cooper, recently of Hot Springs, Ark., who were on their way here to locate, was killed.

Death was caused by a 650-pound wheel to some large machinery falling on him. It seems the wheel was balanced on the floor of the Price freight depot and in playing around it toppled over striking him across the stomach and pinioning the little fellow beneath.

The mishap occurred about 1 o'clock and the unfortunate boy lived for three and a half hours.

The remains leave on the Price stage this (Friday) morning and will be brought to Myton for interment.

Lee Cooper left for his parents the middle of the week in a private conveyance, but owing to the mishap the family will come in by stage. While no definite arrangements have

## HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND DUCHESNE.

By M. M. SMITH

Pearl Grant has gone to Salt Lake on a visit. She went to Colton with Dan Powell.

Mrs. Lou Jasperson and brother, Ira Cloward, of Clear Creek, surprised Lou and Frank Cloward at the sheep camp at Red creek last week, by making an unexpected call.

Chas. Brown came up from the ditch works near Myton to visit the folks.

Yes, Wasatch county is "dry" only figuratively speaking, for we are blessed with an abundance of the purest water on top of earth—ample for all if properly distributed. Adam lived six or seven hundred years on that brand of ale.

Prepare to make eternal war on the ubiquitous prairie dog. These dry springs drive him to the low lands, where he will work havoc with the crops.

Geo. Ode Kirk threatens to start a bakery. Then the hole in the doughnut joke will be revived.

Henry Robbins, Lee Pratt

applied to make final proof on his homestead. For some reason, his friends are all congratulating him, but Dan declares there's nothing to it.

Roy Dixon of Provo is with Mr. Tanner. Mr. Dixon and brother are heavy bench land owner.

May 15th, yours truly celebrated the 54th anniversary of his birth "befo' de wai" down the cedar roughs and bayous of darkest Arkansas. At that time, I believe, there was not a mile of railroad in that state. A wilderness? Well, rather. One day a savage panther came out of the jungle and picking up one of my young brothers, carried him away. He was never recovered. At breaking out of the rebellion, we moved up into Missouri—now laugh, damn you.

At this writing Caleb Tanner, state engineer, in company with interested settlers of the Blue bench, is making an inspection tour over the so-called

## State Appointments

Governor Names the Capitol Commission.

Governor William Spry Saturday appointed members of the capitol commission and other state officers, whose terms began with the inception of the new laws on May 10.

Chief among the appointments is that of four members of the commission which will have charge of the work of erecting Utah's new \$2,000,000 capitol building. The governor names Colonel C. E. Loose of Provo, John Henry Smith of Salt Lake, John Derr of Salt Lake and Matt S. Browning of Ogden on this committee.

In addition to these four members are the governor, who shall act as president of the commission, the secretary of state, C. S. Tingey, who shall be vice president, and the attorney general, A. R. Barnes. The commission shall select its secretary and superintendent of buildings and grounds. None of the commissioners shall draw pay, but the secretary shall be paid \$1,000 and the superintendent \$2,000.

## Case Up In Few Days


Meadows to Have His Preliminary Examination Probably Some Day Next Week.

Next week, according to the Record's information, the preliminary examination of John W. Meadows, arrested on the charge of murdering Arthur Marsh, will take place at Thoreau. The accused has secured the legal services of A. Hatch, of Heber. The attorneys and friends of the defendant state that they believe an acquittal will result, as, according to their statements, the state has failed to secure sufficient evidence against him warrant a justice of the peace even binding him over to district court.

During their trip here, the murder had been committed, Sheriff Wall and County Attorney Willes were viewed by the Record. Meadows refused to talk for publication.

The Myton Free Press published their first volume April 8, 1915.







Below is the bar from the Three Legged Dog Saloon which occupied this building in recent years. Oilfield workers stopped in for a drink and added their company's stickers to the mirror behind the bar.



The man who donated this bath tub to Bud said that the tub was from an ancestor who had come across the plains with the early pioneers by wagon.

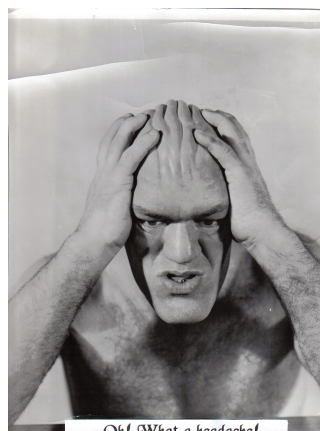




The bathtub shown above and the dishes below are on loan from the Chatwin family.



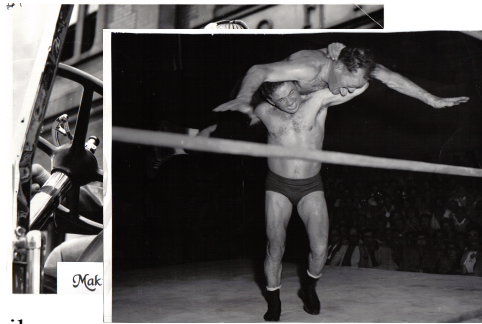
George Marrett, a retired Duchesne County Sheriff, donated this old cook stove. Bud worked many hours with a wire brush removing the rust and polishing it. The Log Cabin syrup can on the shelf was before World War II. After the war began syrup was put into glass bottles because all metal went for the war effort.



Oh! What a headache!



The Swedish Angel, Phil Olafson, was a world champion wrestler back when wrestling was really wrestling and not just a show. He was born in Sweden and later lived in Salt Lake City. In the picture below he was playing a role for a movie. His daughter married a man from Pleasant Valley named Ken Higley. Bud met him at the Three Legged Dog Saloon one time and thought he was a very nice gentleman.



In the early days they didn't have a lot of silver or coins, so merchants would make coins or trade tokens of value for their place of business. This token is for one bit.



A friend of Bud's from St. George painted this painting of the old Myton State Bank building. A man stood there watching him paint, so when he went home to finish the painting he sketched the man into the painting. Ten years later Bud met a relative of the artist named Lawrence Young while on a visit to Spring Dale, Utah. The friend gave him the painting for the Museum. One day Bud saw the man in the painting, Merle Paxman, outside the Museum and showed it to him. He was quite surprised to see that he had been sketched into the painting.

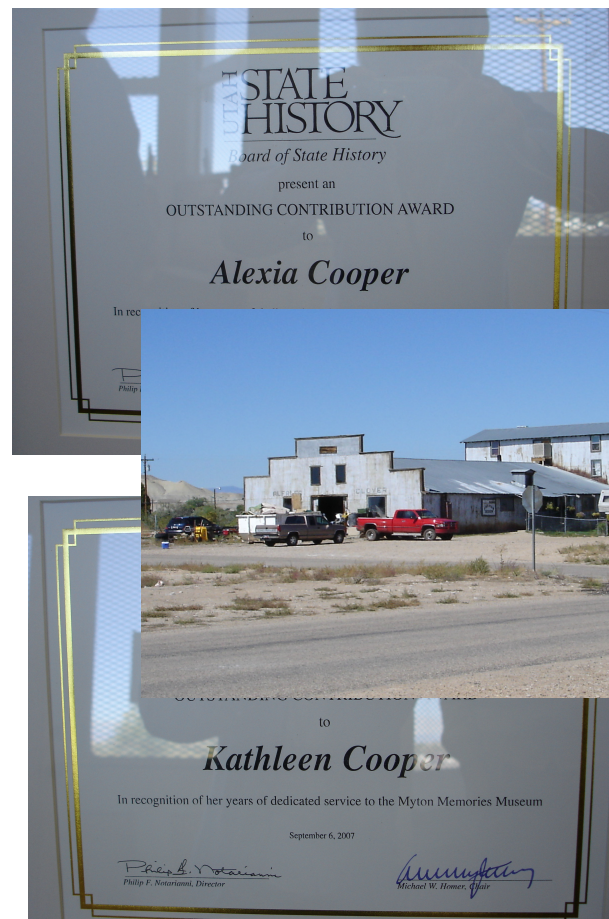
Haydon (Bud) Cooper and his wife Alexia (Ludy) were the founders of the Myton Memories Museum. Ludy served as mayor for twelve years and accomplished many great things; their daughter, Kathleen is currently the Mayor of Myton. Bill Link was the Mayor of Myton from 1942 to 1966.



Haydon, Ludy, and Kathleen Cooper received awards for their contribution to the history of Myton by developing the Myton Memories Museum. These awards were given by the Utah State History Board.



The Farmers Seed Cleaning Plant was used to remove noxious weeds and trash seeds from the alfalfa or other grains processed in the mill.





Fort Myton was first established as a Standard Oil Station. Isaac Sanders built the Standard Oil Service Station with a fort around it to make it more appealing to the tourists. Bud bought the building in 1970 and added a café, a beauty shop, a laundromat store. It was called, “Bud’s Fort Myton”. Joan and Gail Potter bought it from Bud and called it “Fort Myton.”

It is now called “Old Fort Myton Café” by current owners.



The bar inside the café remains the same



as when it was “Bud’s Fort Myton.”



Early tourist cabins were built by Wesley Jensen. He also served on the Myton City Council during the 1950’s.



### The Legion Hall

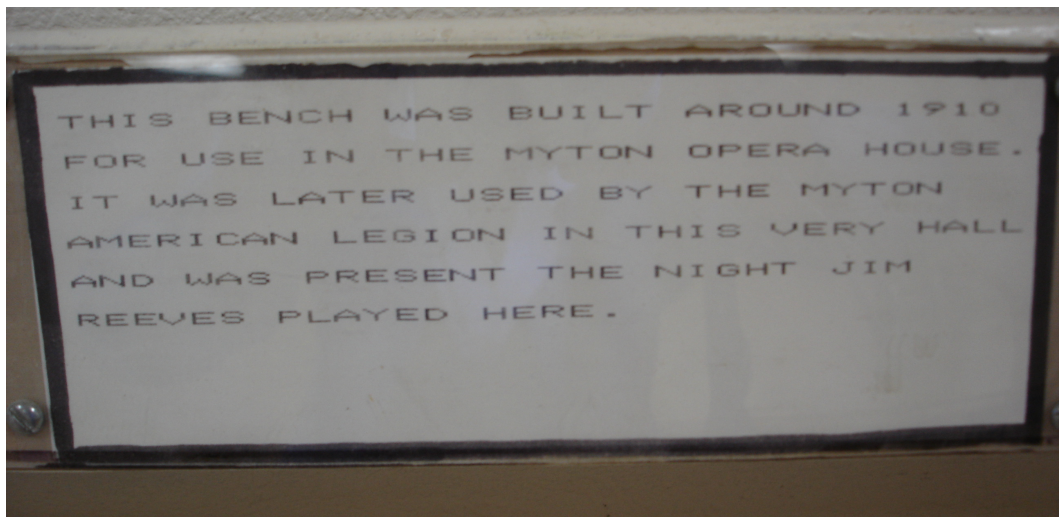
This building is really two very old stores, the Berry Store and another that conjoined to make up the Dance Hall area. Later, Wesley Jensen built the café on the south end of the building. In its day it was a popular dance hall in the Uinta Basin, hosting among other famous singers, Jim Reeves. These were held in the 1950's to the 1960's.



This old stove was donated to the American Legion by Steve Bellon of Roosevelt. He owned the Steve and Ned's Café there.







The Opera House

